

Section II: Functional Annexes

Purpose

This annex provides the foundation for emergency operations by County health officials, local medical services, and the County coroner in accomplishment of lifesaving, transport, evacuation, and treatment of injured; disposition of the dead; disease prevention and control; and other health-related measures. Hazard specific appendices to this plan contain additional information for such specific emergencies.

Situation and Assumptions

1. Situation

- A. One of the primary concerns of public health officials is disease control. This involves the prevention, detection, and control of disease causing agents, maintaining safe water, and food sources, and continuation of wastewater disposal under disaster conditions.
- B. Disaster and mass-causality incidents take many forms. Proper emergency medical response must be structured to provide optimum resource application without total abandonment of day-to-day responsibilities.

2. Assumptions

- A. Emergency medical and public health services will be an extension of normal duties. Health/medical care will be adjusted to the size and type of disaster.
- B. In mass casualty situations, funeral home directors can be extremely useful for counseling victims of a disaster and the personnel conducting the response and recovery operations.
- C. County resources are capable of meeting most emergencies, however during large-scale disasters; assistance from state and federal agencies is expected. Further, catastrophic situations, relocation of hospital facilities may be required.
- D. It may be assumed that disaster victims and/or emergency services personnel who report to established shelters may be in need of triage and treatment of minor injuries.

Concept of Operations

Potential Health Threat – Preparation Phase

- Depending on the type of threat, actions taken during this phase range from monitoring the situation to partial mobilization of emergency resources. As appropriate, the following actions should be taken:
- Notify and brief the appropriate County and State officials, emergency response agencies, and health and medical facility operators.
- Review plans and procedures.
- Verify the readiness of the emergency health services system.
- Emergency medical services and hospitals will: Determine which normal activities and facility accommodations can be curtailed or shifted to allow for increases emergency capacity.
- Assure that all available medical personnel within the County are adequately trained to handle mass care casualties/scenarios, especially those outlined in the hazard specific appendices to this annex.
- Coordinate the release of public health information with County and State Public

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Information Officers. This would include adequate information for disease prevention, accurate information about disease and incidence of disease; and adequate information for individuals to evaluate their risk of exposure.

■ **Imminent Threat – Response Phase**

The following actions should be accomplished as appropriate:

- Activate emergency plans and mobilize emergency health personnel. Hospitals may decide to begin notification and callback of available staff members.
- Provide emergency public information on the health aspects of the situation in conjunction with EOC/JIC.
- Based on the scope of the threat, consider requesting activation of the Emergency Operations Center.
- Establish communications among hospital, County and State health departments and the DESC, or his designated representative.
- Implement disease control and prevention measures.

■ **Response Phase**

For non-mass casualties' situation:

- **Initiate actions above.**
- Determine the need for additional resources.
- Determine and implement protective actions in coordination with state health officials, the County Executives, and DESC.
- If the County Health Officer and the medical advisory team determines that the health and medical needs exceed county capabilities, assistance from state and federal agencies may be requested by the DESC, through MTDES.
- In cooperation with the American Red Cross, provide health and medical care at shelter and congregate care facilities as health department staffing and responsibilities permit.

For mass casualties' situations:

- County Fire, EMS, Police and rescue services responding first to the incident will determine the number and type of casualties, requesting additional assistance, establish staging and initiate triage procedures.
- Establish and operate emergency medical care centers for essential workers in the hazardous area following the evacuation of the general population.

■ **The hospital should:**

- Obtain crisis augmentation of health and medical personnel, e.g. nurses' aides, paramedics, American Red Cross personnel and other trained volunteers.
- Consider reducing the patient population in hospitals, nursing homes, and other health care facilities if evacuation is necessary, and continue medical care for those that cannot be evacuated.
- Coordinate with the County Public Information Officer (PIO) to provide information to friends and relatives of the injured were taken.
- When the emergency involves significant health hazards, the County Health Officer will, as appropriate, carry out the following activities:
- Initiate control measures as needed to prevent and reduce the incidence of disease.

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- Identify safe food, and water supplies and emergency measures to prevent illness, provide information on emergency measures to prevent illness, provide information on emergency wastewater control measures, provide information on air quality concerns and provide information on vermin and vector control measures.
- Assist in the identification of disaster areas to which access should be restricted.

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